## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4406

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR.SN

SUBJECT: US-SINGAPORE CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

**REF: SINGAPORE 294** 

1. SUMMARY. CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS RECESSED JANUARY 22
WITHOUT AGREEMENT AFTER USDEL TOOK POSITION THAT INCLUSION OF
ANY JAPAN-US FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR SINGAPORE WOULD SEVERELY
IMBALANCE ROUTE EXCHANGE IN FAVOR OF SINGAPORE. SINGAPORE DEL
DID NOT CHALLENGE THIS ASSERTION, BUT URGED US TO EXPAND ITS
OWN ROUTE INTERESTS FOR LONG-TERM POTENTIAL. USDEL RESPONDED
THAT, SINCE POSSIBILITY USING OTHER ROUTE RIGHTS WAS HYPOTHETICAL ONLY, IT COULD NOT EXPAND ITS ROUTE REQUEST EXCEPT
MARGINALLY (E.G. KUALA LUMPUR-SINGAPORE RIGHTS). MEMORANDUM
OF CONSULTATIONS SIGNED RECORDING RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. SINGAPORE
VOLUNTEERED EXTEND PANAM'S LICENCE FOR 3 MONTHS ON UNDERSTANDING
CONSULTATIONS RESUMED WITHIN THAT PERIOD. USDEL AGREE
RESUME AT MUTUALLY CONVENIET TIME DURING THIS PERIOD AFTER
NOTING CIRCUMSTATNCES NOT LIKELY CHANGE. END SUMMARY.

2. SINGAPORE DEL OFFERED DEFINE ITS ROUTE INTERESTS MORE PRECISELY THAN HERETOFORE. SPECIFICALLY, IT PROPOSED A SINGAPORE-HONG KONG-TAIPEI-TOKYO-HONOLULLOS ANGELES ROUTE TO BE OPERATED WITH DAILY 747 SERVICE.

ROUTE WOULD NOT BE OPERATED BEFORE APRIL 1, 1977. USDEL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CITING RELEVANT STATISTICS AND USING SINGAPORE DEL'S OWN

ASSUMPTIONS RE MARKET SHARE, SHOWED THAT THE VALUE OF TOKYO-HONOLULU ALONE FAR EXCEEDED TOTAL VALUE OF US ROUTE PROPOSAL. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DAILY 747 AT 60 PERCENT LOAD FACTOR WOULD FILL 175,200 SEATS WHICH WOULD PRODUCE REVENUES EXCEEDING BY MANY TIMES THE REVENUES WHICH COULD BE DERIVED FROM THE US ROUTE. WE NOTED THAT, EVEN IF SINGAPORE AIRLINES OPERATED ONLY THREE 747 FLIGHTS A WEEK, THE FIFTH FREEDOM VALUES FOR SINGAPORE WOULD STILL EXCEED THE TOTAL VALUE OF US ROUTE BY A WIDE MARGIN.

- 3. SINGAPORE DEL DID NOT CHALLENGE THESE FIGURES OR SEEK TO CONTEST THE CONCLUSION WE HAD DRAWN. INSTEAD, IT URGED USDEL TO CONSIDER EXPANDING ITS ROUTE INTERESTS BASED ON LONG-TERM POTENTIAL. (WHILE IT DID NOT FORMALLY PROPOSE SPECIFICS, IT WAS CLEAR FROM SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL REMARKS THAT SINGAPORE WOULD GRANT FULL FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS ON VIRTUALLY ANY ROUTE SEGMENT US MIGHT WANT, INCLUDING TOKYO-SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE-BANGKOK, AND ROUND-THE-WORLD). WE NOTED THAT FLYING TIGER HAD APPLIED TO CAB FOR SINGAPORE RIGHTS, BUT CURRENT US POLICY DID NOT CALL FOR OBTAINING ROUTE RIGHTS BASED ON CONJECTURE AS TO OUTCOME THAT (OR ANY OTHER) APPLICATION. IN SHORT, USDEL HELD FIRM THAT THERE WAS NO WAY US COULD OR WOULD EXPAND ITS ROUTE REQUEST, OTHER THAN KUALA LUMPR-SINGAPORE, WHICH WE CHARACTERIZED AS DROP IN BUCKET.
- 4. SINGAPORE DEL SAID IT HAD HOPED THAT, BY US
  EXPANDING ITS ROUTE REQUEST AND SINGAPORE LIMITING ITS
  ROUTE REQUEST, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK TOWARD A
  SOLUTION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE TOKYO-US
  FIFTH FREEDOM RITHTS FOR SINGAPORE. HOWEVER, SINCE US
  WOULD OR COULD NOT MOVE FROM ITS END, THE DIFFERENCES WERE
  SO GREAT THAT IT WAS POINTLESS TO PURSUE A SOLUTION FURTHER
  AT THIS TIME. USDEL AGREED WITH THIS ASSESSMENT. SINGAPORE
  DEL CHARATERIZED RESULTING SITUATION AS UNFAIR SINCE US
  NOW ENJOYED AN IMBALANCE IN ITS FAVOR. IT ATTEMPTED TO
  IMPLY THAT US WAS INSISTING ON CONTINUATION OF THIS UNBALANCED
  SITUATION. WHILE USDEL SAID NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT
  SINGAPORE' SHOULD TERMINATE PANAM'S SERVICES IN ORDER TO
  ACHIEVE BALANCE AT ZERO LEVEL, IT EQUALLY AVOIDED
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REQUESTING EXTENSION PANAM'S LICENSE BEYOND JANUARY 31. SINGAPORE DEL REQUESTED FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS BY APRIL 30 AND VOLUNTEERED EXTEND PANAM'S LICENSE IN MEANTIME. WE INDICATED WILLINGNESS MEET AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME WITHIN THIS TIME PERIOD BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE WOULD OR COULD BE ANY CHANGE IN US POSITION.

5. SINGAPORE DEL RAISED CARGO SERVICE QUESTION AGAIN,

NOTING THAT SINGAPORE AIRLINES' APPLICATION TO CAB, WHICH WOULD BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY, WAS FOR SINGAPORE-HONG KONG-GUAM-HOMOLULU-LOS ANGELES ROUTE. SERVICE WOULD BE WITH ONE 707 OR DC-8 FREIGHTER PER WEEK. WITH WESTBOUND FLIGHT OMITTING HONG KONG. USDEL SAID IT COULD ONLY MAKE OBSERVATIONS, SINCE IT WOULD NOT PREJUDGE CAB DECISION, AS FOLLOWS: (A) PARA 9 JULY 1974 MEMCON WAS NOT COMMITMENT AND MOREOVER CONTAINED QUALFICATION RE FIFTH FREEDOM CARGO AUTHORITY FOR SINGAPORE AIRLINES; (B) HONG KONG-US FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR SINGAPORE NOT EQUIVALENT IN VALUE TO FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR US; (C) HONG KONG-SINGAPORE RIGHTS FOR US WORTHLESS SINCE US DID NOT HAVE THEM FROM UK; (D) THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY CAB COULD ACT ON SINGAPORE AIRLINES' APPLICATION BY APRIL 1 DUE TO PROCEDURAL REQUIRE-MENTS. USDEL NOTED IT WAS OPEN TO SINGAPORE DEL TO PROPOSE INTERGOVERNMENTAL UNDERSTANDING ON INTERIM CARGO REIGHTS, BUT IF SUCH PROPOSAL MADE, USDEL WOULD HAVE TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS. AFTER SOME INTERNAL DEBATE ON SINGAPORE SIDE, SINGAPORE DEL SAID IT DID NOT WANT TO MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE IT FELT SUCH ARRANGEMENT MIGHT PREJUDICE MAIN QUEST FOR ROUTE VIA TOKYO FOR PASSENGER SERVICE.

6. MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATIONS SIGNED RECORDING RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND HOW MATTERS LEFT WITH REGARD FURTHER CONSLUTATIONS AND EXTENSION PANAM' LICENSE. COPY BEING POUCHED. GRANT

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## Message Attributes

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